

From: Leslie.Sanborn@hartfordlife.com
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 3:24 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Public hearing Testimony

I hope that this testimony reaches you in a timely manner, unfortunately I just found out about the hearing on Monday and will be unable to attend in person. I am a parent of 3 children who attend magnet schools. I am a resident of Berlin, CT. I have 2 children at Breakthrough Magnet School for the past 3 years and 1 child at Classical Magnet school for the past 4 years. I also have 1 child who is graduating from Berlin High School this year. I would like you to know that I feel very strongly that:

- a) Magnet schools are important and effective
- b) In order to draw us to the schools; they need to be adequately funded
- c) I support the commissioners proposal as contained in S.B. No. 946

We live in the suburbs where there is little diversity. My children ages 15 (female), 10 (male) and 7 (female) have thrived in their magnet schools. They are exposed to children from all different racial, cultural and economic backgrounds which I truly believe prepares them for the real world. The opportunities they have had in regards to teaching styles and methods has truly enhanced their education. All 3 children have done extremely well academically. They are exposed to opportunities in music, art, theater and afternoon enrichment opportunities that are not available in the town we live in. My 15 year old has had an opportunity to play multiple sports. My children have bonded with students from over 17 towns. I am a parent who has seen the benefits of having children in magnet schools versus sending them to the schools in our home town. In order to continue to draw student from various towns, the schools need to maintain their current funding levels. I truly believe these schools have been a success as evidenced by the several awards they have won including being listed on the top 100 schools in the nation, merit school of distinction, and national magnet school of excellence. I strongly support and suggest that you pass S.B. 946.

Thank you for the opportunity speak on behalf of this very important issue.

Leslie C. Sanborn

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